

**Introduced by Senator Simitian**

April 5, 2011

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35—Relative to the Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 35, as introduced, Simitian. Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge.

This measure would designate the bicycle and pedestrian bridge that crosses State Highway Route 280 at Mary Avenue between the Cities of Cupertino and Sunnyvale in the County of Santa Clara as the Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, April 2009 marked the official opening of the  
2 bicycle-pedestrian bridge presently known as the Mary Avenue  
3 Bridge, over State Highway Route 280 between the cities of  
4 Cupertino and Sunnyvale in California; and  
5 WHEREAS, The concept for the bridge was originated in the  
6 early 1990s by bicycle advocate Don Burnett. For many years,  
7 Don Burnett led, encouraged, and supported efforts to construct  
8 and finance the bridge. The construction and finance efforts began  
9 in 1993 when Don Burnett began eight years of service as a  
10 Cupertino City Councilman and as Mayor of the City of Cupertino  
11 from 1995 through 1996; and

1 WHEREAS, Don Burnett’s initial work identified the importance  
2 of alternatives to the automobile; and

3 WHEREAS, Don Burnett was recognized for his past bicycling  
4 and pedestrian activities by the City Council of the City of  
5 Cupertino in a proclamation on May 18, 2010, which noted his  
6 efforts in forming the City of Cupertino’s first Bicycle Advisory  
7 Committee, now called the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission. The  
8 proclamation recognized him as “an unsurpassed bike advocate  
9 who was the key author of the city’s bicycle plan and pedestrian  
10 plan”; and

11 WHEREAS, Don Burnett served in an active role in leadership  
12 and support of recreational bicycle rides for the Western Wheelers  
13 Bicycle Club, Almaden Cycle Touring Club, and Skyline Cycling  
14 Club, and was the recipient of many awards from those  
15 organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, Don Burnett served on the board of the Silicon  
17 Valley Bicycle Coalition and received the 2005 Advocate of the  
18 Decade Award “for years of bicycle commuting, followed by years  
19 of advocacy...and trails watchdog for the Santa Clara Valley Water  
20 District”; and

21 WHEREAS, Don Burnett served the Valley Transportation  
22 Authority as a volunteer on the Citizens Advisory Committee and  
23 Citizens Watchdog Committee from 2004 through 2008. Following  
24 his death on September 11, 2010, the Board of Directors of the  
25 Valley Transportation Authority adjourned their regular meeting  
26 on October 7, 2010, in memory of Don Burnett; and

27 WHEREAS, Don Burnett was a giving person whose life was  
28 dedicated to service to others, and he never sought to further his  
29 own political growth; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
31 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the numerous  
32 achievements and contributions of Donald R. Burnett, the  
33 Legislature hereby designates the bicycle and pedestrian bridge  
34 which crosses State Highway Route 280 at Mary Avenue between  
35 the cities of Cupertino and Sunnyvale in the County of Santa Clara  
36 as the Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests the Department of  
38 Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signage  
39 showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations

1 from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and  
2 be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of  
4 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and the author for  
5 appropriate distribution.

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